



Hot Fun In The Summer Sun!

Here we see some *La Vigna* picnic goers who braved the heat and humidity to keep the tradition going stronger than ever! The balloon toss was one way to try to beat the heat that day.

'Let The Games Begin!'

A brand new feature of this years *La Vigna* Picnic, for those of you unlucky enough not to have been in attendance, was something that was neither brand new nor a first time at these family gatherings. I am speaking of organized games, played by all, won by the few.

In ancient Greece gatherings like these were called festivals and games were competitions to honor the

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Worth A Thousand Words

By Dean Acquaviva

How many times have I heard that popular idiom, 'One picture's worth a thousand words? I'm not sure if it is as true today as it was in the infancy of photography when all was novel and remarkable, however I am certain that our most recent issue of *La Vigna* went quite a long way towards refuting the validity of that statement.

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La Vigna Picnic Report

By What's His Name

Sixty five persons braved July 15th's record heat to attend this year's *La Vigna* Picnic. Dean and Clora Acquaviva, Henry Montague and Reed Thomas did an excellent job preparing the grounds at 90 Eggerts Road for the 1995 Picnic. The temperature was 11 degrees cooler in the tree shaded area of the manicured grounds. Free flowing socializing compensated for the bruising heat. Angelo "Dippy Do Dah" Chianese thoughtfully provided ice water dampened cotton cloths for the

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The Chianese Codebuster

By Jane Chianese

This is a story about my work during World War II as a codebreaker. If it bores you half to death you can blame Bob Immordino, as he is the one who convinced me to write it.

It all began when a friend of mine, Frances Castle and I wanted a change and felt as though we weren't doing our share for the war effort. We saw an ad in the *Detroit News* for the Army signal Corps and went away

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A Tribute to a World War II Homefront Heroine—My Wife

By Robert B. Immordino

A few weeks ago our country marked the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Much has been written of the trials and tribulations of American GI's, little about life on the homefront as it effected women, especially young married women.

During the past fifty years my wife Jennie occasionally would lament "I too was a victim of World

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Happy Couple Sails Into Matrimonial Bliss

It may not have been THE Love Boat of Hollywood fame, but for Katherine Chianese and her new husband David M. Valentino, it was the perfect way to launch their new marriage. On July Fourth the fireworks really began as the happy couple was joined in matrimony on a river boat which sails out of Brielle on the Manasquan River.

It was an intimate affair with immediate families attending to wish the best to the bride and groom. The day was memorable in many ways, and the Chianeses are all jubilant to have David joining the family. *La Vigna* sends its best wishes for a long and happy marriage!



BY Hugh Noe Hu

Congratulations to Jane Chianese for responding to *La Vigna's* call for Homefront World War II written experiences. See Jane's story on page one... Ditto to Bob Immordino for his tribute to his wife, also see page one... Two days after our HOT *La Vigna* Picnic Lelia Scisso, hubby Bud and their two children left our area for California where Bud's company moved his job...Grandpop Anthony Chianese is finding it tough adjusting, He misses the opportunities to "baby sit" for his Grand children...Willie Bilancio surely enjoyed watching her granddaughter Avery make short work of the ice cream Uncle Dean hand made for the appreciative picnickers...Terry and Willie Bilancio motored from Bath, NY not only to attend the Picnic (and see their granddaughter) but also help their son William celebrate his 28th birthday, and to do a little 'exploring' for items for Willie's antique business...A Special 'Thank You' to Henry Montague and his friend Carl Fuessel for working until 3 a.m.putting away the picnic tables, foodstuff and especially Dean's super art work and the 11 years of *La Vigna* Christmas Issues displayed, before the unscheduled rain storm wreaked havoc on those items....When John Anthony (Comcast's Super Agent) showed up with his mini video recorder he recruited an unlikely relative to video tape the balloon tossing contest that John entered...When Bob Immordino suggested that John tape the childrens Piniata contest, who do you think got the job to tape it? Bob is learning not to be so free with "suggestions" that end up with another job for him.....



9,120 SEEDS

The results of the Arugola-seed-guessing contest? Officially, no one won, since you had to guess within 100 seeds to win the \$50 prize offered by Anthony Chianese.

However, well over \$50 was raised at the picnic by selling 26 official guesses to some folks who gave more than \$1 per guess. The closest guesser, Willie Bilancio, bought 10 tries and came within 103 seeds with a guess of 9223. She stated at the time of her guess that she would donate the \$50 to *LaVigna* if she won. Second closest guess was by donor Anthony Chianese (9,005--off by 115 seeds).

Thanks to all who contributed, guessed and planted the seeds. Thanks especially to our two benefactors Anthony Chianese and Willie Bilancio!



Rock'N Roll.Com Letters

Dear Readers, The following letters were sent electronically via computer to William Bilancio's Bulletin Board Service Rock'N Roll.Com, which he graciously allows *LaVigna* family members to use free of charge to communicate with the paper and each other.

Dear William,

I do hope you are related to Frank and Marie Bilancio family. Marion Caricollo and I have been trying to sort out the three families (DiSantis/DiPacio(DePatch)/Bilancio). I have exchanged some letters and information. I may have overwhelmed the lady though and am afraid that she might think me a bit nosey with all the questions I've asked her. I wasn't trying to be personal, but rather looking for the years of marriages, deaths etc. to help me pinpoint events related to other families.

Did you know that you have almost as unusual a last name as DiPacio/DePatch? I have also found some families called Pacio and I think the origin is Spanish.

I know that not everyone is into family tree making, but I hope that somewhere in the Bilancio family someone might have stashed a family bible away. The dates would really help and I always share my information.

Thanks for listening.

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La Vigna October

READERS

October 2....Lilia Scisso
October 3....Katherine Chianese
October 10...Ray Armenti
October 15...Susan Picascia
October 19...Jennie Bilancio
Mickey Chianese
October 26...Michael Gervasio
October 27...Angelica Roberts
October 29...Christy Gervasio
Tim Montague
October 30...Bernice Smailer

November

November 1....Maria Armenti
November 13...Beatrice Johnson
November 15...Dean Acquaviva
November 19...Sue Garzio
November 21...Maria Pedata
November 22...Ron Armenti
November 24...Erma Candelori
November 25...Frank Garzio Sr.
November 26...Rae Bilancio
November 29...Janele Klepczynski
Michael Roth
November 30...Betty Acquaviva Thomas
Carie MacLeod

December

December 5....Corinne Bilancio
December 7....Scott Schutts
December 15...Carmen Armenti
December 16...Beatrice Wiesner-Chianese
December 21...Ivan Bilancio
December 23...Anthony Armenti
Brian Josephson
December 25...Kimberly Chianes
December 31...Suzanne Roth
Jonathan Spillers



Exploring The National Telephone List, "The Bilancios"



By Lewis Bilancio

There are millions and millions of names. There are hundreds of Chianeses, Immordinos, Acquavivas, Bilardos, Billardos, Bilardis, Gervasios, etc.

But there are only about 30 Bilancios. Yet the word Bilancio is one of the most meaningful in the Italian language. It means the balance, bottom line, what's left after you subtract what you owe from what you have. Bilancio is even more important in the next world because "il bilancio morale" is what is left when you subtract all the bad things you have done from the few good deeds...or hopefully vice versa.

Three separate Bilancio families came to America. The earliest came from France and is now settled in Florida. In France they changed their names to French names, but after arriving in the USA they restored the Bilancio name.

James Bilancio Sr., lives at 3873 S. Banana Blvd., Coco Beach, Fl., telephone: (487) 784-5862. He has four sons, all in Florida. I'll be contacting them when we go to Boco Raton this winter.

The second family is located in or near South Bend, Indiana. The grandfather, Daniel Sr., is deceased but his wife Antonia, is 85 years old, and lives at 426 Logan St., South Bend; telephone: (219) 287-4140. There are a half dozen sons, grandsons, and nephews. A nephew Arthur, telephone: (219) 262-0924, said he was contacted by my brother Leo and receives *La Vigna*. Their great-grandfather came to America from a small village near Campobasso.

The third family was pioneered by Nicola, my father, who arrived from Casandrino, in the province of Campania, in the year 1903. This family settled in Trenton, NJ, and is the largest of the three. It has branches in Bath, NY (Terence), in Hollywood (Ivan), in Marietta, GA (Jane), and elsewhere.

In the next issue I'll report on the Chianeses, my mother's family, and the Acquavivas, the marriage name of Clothilda (Clora) who puts out this paper with her husband Dean and with the help of other family members.

Editor's Note: Phone list is available call or write *La Vigna* for a copy.

See Related Story on  Page 2: Rock'n Roll.Com

CHIANESE NOTES

Attention opera lovers! OPERA INTERNATIONAL, the dream child of cousin Dr. Sam Bellardo of Kutztown University is up and running strong. Since its dazzling Princeton NJ and Lancaster PA showcase debuts last March and April, O.I. has continued to expand its recruitment of fine vocalists from the NY, PA and NJ tri-state area. Dr. Bellardo's vision is to bring this new generation of dedicated artists into partnership with masters of the operatic tradition both here and in Europe. Artistic coaching is happening in New York with vocal coach Eric Thorndahl, former Met performers Licia Albanese and Walter Taussig, as well as in Italy under the tutelage of renowned diva Antonietta Stella. The writer of this article is the French and Italian language coach for all singers and will be teaching basic "survival" Italian to the singers who opt to study in Italy next summer (June 3-24). VOLUNTEERS ARE

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SHIP BOTTOM—SURF CITY, N.J. GATHERING

By Bob Immordino

Thursday August 17th saw quite a family gathering take place at the Jersey shore towns of Ship Bottom and Surf City. Lew Bilancio and Bernice for years have hosted numerous family members, "at the shore." But look what happened this year.

Corinne and her daughter Eva came from Denmark for three weeks. Jennie and Bob Immordino rented a place or two weeks to accomodate daughter Roberta and her son Robert along with daughter Carolyn and son-in-law Jim MacLeod from California and Connecticut, respectively. Fran, Angelica, Ira and Luigi motored in from Michigan. Lorraine Anthony, Clora Acquaviva, Beatty Johnson and Lucy Gervasio drove in from Central Jersey. Lew Bilancio came over from his place. Additionally Beatty's friend John Allen and Corinne's close friend Beth and her daughter Rebecca helped to make up 21 persons joining in for a gastronomical feast. All of this took place at Corinne's Surf City "mansion". The feast was followed by a frustrated trip to the beach to fly kites and feed the sea gulls. However, the strong winds from Felix, the elusive Hurricane, ruled otherwise.

The evening was topped off with "Italian" musical renditions by Corrine and Fran Bilancio and a top notch Rock and Roll number by Ira Bilancio and delicious dessert. It only goes to show what can be done when "Family" members put their creative gastronomical talents together...and yes, their musical talents to good use.

From the several cameras on the scene we look forward to viewing many interesting photos of this "historic" event.



Chianese Codebuster cont.

to Detroit to see what it was all about. An Army recruiter talked us into signing up and before we knew it we were on our way to Washington., D.C. Army recruiters lie a lot and he made it sound too good to be true. I'm sure you remember what they say about that? If it sounds too good to be true, it is.

I won't tell you where it was that I worked except that it was in Virginia. I am not sure if we are allowed to talk about it even now. My job was with the Intelligence Department. We worked three different shifts. The place was under very high security. That's where I met Pat. He was there on guard duty. It was sort of an R&R place for him to be after the Aleutian Islands.

Our job was to decode messages as they were intercepted. They were Japanese messages and had been translated before they got to us.

Frances and I met a local girl there and eventually went to live with her. Her father was the man who translated the Japanese into English.

We were warned to never tell what we did there and if asked, to say we were just clerks. If we were asked too many questions we were supposed to report it. It got to be quite boring after while as all we did all day (once the code was broken) was to write down the messages. No one person ever had the entire message. I knew it was for security reasons, but it did get tiresome. For all this we were paid something like \$50.00 on the 15th and 30th of the month.

It was rather interesting to be in Washington during the war, the lights were off everywhere. You were not allowed to walk on the sidewalk on the White House side of the street. There were thousands of girls working here from all over the United States and I met some very nice people who are my friends to this day.

A man I went to school with in Royal Oak, Michigan was there working for the American Embassy and he let us in on a way to get free food by wandering into a foreign embassy when they had receptions, load a plate with food and mingle with everyone. We did it sometimes and got away with it. We seemed to always be broke so as it got near a payday we were getting hungry.

We first lived in a rooming house in Alexandria, Virginia, where the landlady was very nice, but her husband was a dirty old man and he was always chasing after Frances and me. When we had the chance we got out of there and went to live with our new friend in Washington just a block from the Capitol. It is now a really bad neighborhood. I have been back to see it. It was probably a bad neighborhood when we were there but we were too naive to notice that.

The first month we were there, Franklin Roosevelt died and we were among the crowds lining the street for his funeral procession.

We were there when the war ended too, and could be part of the joy and excitement of all that. We were still here when some of the war heroes and generals came back and there were big parades for them.

I stayed on for awhile after Pat was discharged to help clean up some of the loose ends and after that came to Trenton. I lived with Aunt Mathilda and Uncle Vito for a while. Marion was still home then. They were very good to me. Shortly before Pat and I were married I went to his parents home and they were very kind to me. The whole family was, and they are to this day. 🍷

HomeFront Heroine-cont.

War II". She was and is right. There were many unsung homefront heroines.

Due to my 1-A draft status (single without dependents) we decided to move up our wedding date to March 16, 1941 (9 months BEFORE Pearl Harbor). As a married man I learned of my right to appeal my draft status. I appealed. However, one of the Draft Board members was a political enemy of mine who sought to speed-up my induction. This character not only 'arranged' for his son (my age) to avoid the draft during World War II he was known to 'help out' friends for the 'proper consideration'.

In the hopes of delaying my induction, as much as possible, my wife quit her job at General Motors. She had to appear before the Draft Board on my appeal. When she informed the Board she had quit her job and might be pregnant, my political enemy Board member angrily and aggressively interrogated her. I was reclassified 3-A (married without children).

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. When General Electric opened their Trenton war plant three months later (March 1942) I was hired and subsequently reclassified 2-A, deferred for war work.

During her pregnancy my wife took extra measures to assure herself a healthy child. On November 6, 1942, an incompetent and lazy doctor denied her what would have been an active healthy child. Showing up late at the hospital, faced with a problem delivery, he cut the umbilical cord, causing the child to suffocate before delivery. That traumatic experience initiated lasting health problems for my wife. Her second pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage which aggravated her health problems.

On October 8, 1943 I was inducted into the U.S. Navy. My ailing wife went to work for GM's Eastern Aircraft helping to build torpedo bombers for the Navy. Her housing conditions left much to be desired she'll readily tell you "We gladly went to work (2nd shift) at the war factory, it helped escape from the cold house."

When the Navy shipped me to the Pacific Theatre of War, my wife chose to work seven days a week "In order to keep my mind from worrying about Bob." Fortunately, she had a fellow "heroine" friend, Thelma (whose husband was a Fighting Marine, in the Pacific) who regularly composed verses and notes, left on Jennie's desk, all aimed to bolster her spirits.

These brief words can only begin to convey or express the agony and suffering endured and experienced by my World War II Homefront Heroine. I salute this Special Homefront Heroine—my wife Jennie..

Will an appropriate national, state or local memorial ever be created honoring the untold numbers of unsung Homefront Heroines of World War II?



Who are these men? And what are they doing? For answers See page 3

A Thousand Words Cont.

No one, more than myself, could have been more dismayed at the poor quality of the reproductions which were placed in the last issue (Summer 95, Vol. XI, Issue I).

We here at *La Vigna* go to great lengths and spend a fair percentage of the publishing costs on the reproduction of your photographs for we feel it is a very important part of the family communication to actually be able to see each other when we read each other's thoughts and words in print.

I won't go into detail here, but there are complicated steps involved in getting a photograph ready to print, especially for reproduction on a xerox, which is how we reproduce *La Vigna*. We have explored all options, and the entire range of costs, and finally settled in a process which delivers good quality pictures at a moderate cost (about seven dollars each), and we feel happy with it.

However, I'm sure you know what becomes of the best laid plans of man and mouse. Well it happened, the low cost xerox center we used for the final print run ran a copy of our beautiful originals then ran your copies from the second generation copy (a copy of a copy). If you've ever tried this yourself you know that each succeeding generation suffers from image quality loss, and hence the poor pictures you saw on your *La Vignas*.

It is also said that every cloud has a silver lining and this one was no exception. After I realized what had defouled your fair likenesses, I spoke with Bob Immordino, champion of the little man and lost causes. Bob had also suggested using this particular reproducer. Bob went down in person, *La Vigna* in hand and in a cool calm deliberate voice explained the mistake which had occurred and how it had ruined our labor of love.

The management was so moved by his heartfelt plea that they promptly refunded the entire cost of the printing. So the last *La Vigna* you received came to you compliments of Bob Immordino and the local Staples Office Supplies. Those pictures may not have been worth a thousand words, but they got us a free issue of *La Vigna*.

If time had allowed we would have run the entire issue again but we often see our deadlines barreling down at us like some runaway train. We hope to avoid problems like this in the future.



Let the Games Begin Cont.

Gods. Ours may have been a bit more humble, but we gave them a run for their money.

Those of us mature enough to remember the original family picnics know that games of skill were organized for the young and old alike which gave people a common ground to exchange pleasantries and impleasantries, and it got the people together.

I have been feeling that the past few years that as we gather together in physical nature we were still managing to keep a bit too much space between us collectively. So I undertook to remedy the situation in the only way I could

Next Column-Games

Picnic Report Continued

appreciative Senior Citizens and others to "cool off"....Angelo also brought along his French friend Bernard Travailot who really enjoyed himself barefootedly walking about chatting with the friendly crowd. He especially enjoyed talking with Princeton High School's retired Foreign Language Department Head Frank Soda. Jennie Immordino's yesteryear French lessons at Trenton High School paid off for her conversing, in French, with Brenard as did other budding Francophiles.

Artistic Dean Acquaviva employing his Computer skills designed and awarded the following Certificates to the respective winners:

Missile Mastery (balloon toss)... to John

Anthony and Henry Montague

Gregarious Maximus (most family members

present) ..to the Chianese

Family

Bean Counter Extraordinaire... to Doug Miller

Seniority Verificationto Jennie C. Bilancio

Well Worn Car Seat (Most distance travelled)...to

Bernard Travailot

Youngest Attendee.... to Avery Bilancio.



Games Cont.

think of...revive the tradition of picnic games.

With the help of Bob Immordino, I brainstormed the games that were played and came up with suggestions for new games to play. In the end I settled on one major game in which all ages could compete on a hot summer's day... The Water Balloon Toss.


It is a large undertaking just to mount the picnic and I was fortunate this year that my mother, Betty Acquaviva, volunteered to provide some games for the youngsters. She had a piniata for breaking and she also had a Put the Nose on the Clown Game. She provided all the prizes and supervised the activities making it easy for me as well as enjoyable to watch, and I'd like to thank her for doing all that she did.

I would also like to thank Jennie Immordino, for her efforts at counting all those little beans which were arranged in a very artistic manner for the Bean Count.

While on the subject of counting and LITTLE, I don't know how they did it, but Angelo Chianese and his father deserve a great deal of credit in putting together the Arugola Seed Counting Contest. They not only provided some amusement, but they raised a tidy little sum for *La Vigna*.

With that in mind I would like to invite each and every one of you potential picnickers to think of a favorite game or activity you might organize and present at the picnic next year or in years to come. I would be glad to help facilitate in any way I can so feel free to call and discuss it with me.

It's OUR picnic so let's all get involved and we can all make it more fun.... *Dean*

"Amici e macaroni  se non sono caldi- no sono buoni"

Friends and macaroni, if they are not warm, are not so good.

LaVigna Mourns Passing of Raymond DeVito

Raymond A. DeVito, 71, of Trenton died on July 20, 1995 at Mercer Medical Center.

Born in Trenton, Raymond was the son of Anthony and Antoinette Bilancio DeVito. Father of the late Donald DeVito he was survived by his wife Luella, a daughter Anette Apicella of Laurel Springs, N.J., a sister Frances Cohen of Santa Monica, California; four grandchildren Michael Apicella, Anna Marie Apicella, Barbara Zanghi and Dominique Richman, and several nephews and cousins.

Raymond was employed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for 34 years. He was a Principal Negotiator at the time of his retirement. Mr. DeVito was an accomplished artist.

Funeral services were private. Arrangements were handled by Saul Colonial Home of Hamilton Square.

Onorio Acquaviva, Career Airman Buried at Arlington

Colonel Onorio Acquaviva, USAF was laid to rest among the nations most highly decorated war heroes in Arlington National Cemetery, July 13, 1995.

He had served in WW II, Korea, and Vietnam as a fighter pilot as well as General MacArthur's personal pilot.

Assigned to England as Military Liaison, he met with diplomats and royalty representing our country.

Raised in Trenton, Onorio came from a large close-knit Italian American family.

During his military career he often travelled for the Air Force, finally settling in Milford, DE.

He is survived by his wife Jill; two brothers, James of Pompano Beach, Florida and Blaze of Montclair NJ; two sons, James and Michael; a daughter Lynn, and many grandchildren.

Hi William,

Rock'N Roll.Com Cont.

Well it took a few times around to try and put together what I hope is relevant information.

As with all the people I contact, I offer to share whatever information or sources I find in my research of family groups. This is a condensed version of what I know about the children of Marie and her three husbands (the children of Frank and Marie Bilancio are Marion, Stella, Christine, Joseph, Patrick and Guy(dead).

Someone searched the Social Security Death Index and found one person by the name DiPacio. I wrote to NJ Vitals and got a death certificate. Certificate gave place of birth as NJ, did not give father or mother's name. Wrote to Social Security Administration and got a 1937 application for an SSA number. Surprise-applicant's name was given as Ralph DePatch with a father named Raphael and a mother named Marie. Both were listed as "DePatch". Place of birth Butler PA. Penned in over Ralph's first and last names were "Raphael DiPacio". (SSA advised no record of when or why name change took place.)

People on the net were great. Phone book searches, phone calls etc. Came up with Guy DePatch. Phoned and spoke to his wife Lillian*He is about 81 and won't talk on phone). She gave me some background on family and that is when I learned that Marie DePatch had first married someone named DeSantis, then DePatch, then Bilancio. Lillian explained the change in name by telling me only her husband Guy and his family were the only ones who went by the name of DePatch and that his brother Ralph "got into trouble with the law" and as a result Guy changed his name from DiPacio to the English spelling. (She also added he had trouble confirming his date of birth because the church in Butler burned down. (This is correct, it burned Dec 16 1920) Then Lillian wrote and said one of the Bilancio girls would answer my questions, because she was never able to sort out the children.

I wrote to Mrs. Marion Caricollo (nee Bilancio). She could tell me only that Marie was born February 18 (no year) and that she died in October at age 62 (no year). She stated Marie's third husband, Frank Bilancio died May 19, 1957, and that both died in Bordentown. At the end of her response she wrote "The only thing I remember Ralph was married to a girl in Bordentown NJ. When he met his second wife, he changed his last name from DePatch to DiPacio. She did not know he was married. In fact, he married his second wife before he was divorced. His last name is DePatch, not DiPacio. The dates of birth of some of Marie's 13 children listed by Marion were totally out of whack (for example, I know that Ralph was born June 1, 1911 and that in 1995, his brother Guy aged 81, would have been born 1913 or 1914. Therefore, it would have been impossible for children from the first marriage to have been born in 1912.

She also would not know, that I know, that of the five children listed in Ralph's 1969 obituary, four were from the first marriage, and the fifth was a daughter brought into the second marriage when Ralph married Irma.

And, someone searched the Trenton city directories for me and found Ralph DiPacio listed off and on from 1948 to 1960 with his wife Stephanie, then in 1966 with his wife Irma. He did not show up in the Trenton directories in 1928, 1938, 1946, 1955 or 1965. Trenton city directories do confirm two wives.

Also, Marion does not know that Richard, one of Ralph's sons, uses the surname "DiPacio". I have no idea where the other son Ronnie is or what last name he uses. (Why would the son of the first wife change his surname?)

I replied to Marion's May 21 letter by asking for only two pieces of information: the year Marie Bilancio died

Continued on page 7

CHIANESE NOTES Continued

CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT and are crucial to the viability of this fledgling company. Your energy, know-how and good will are hereby solicited (yes, this does mean you). For further information regarding the nature of help needed (everything from typing to mailings to baking for benefit concerts), the Italy Soujourn Program or dates of upcoming benefits, contact Angelojohn Chianese at 609) 883-TUNE or at home 530-0632. One of our many goals is to stage a full scale opera by next year. Stay tuned.

More notes...It has been a year of many travels. I want to thank my many wonderful hosts: Bob & Pauline Chianese of Ventura, CA who not only hosted me but also got Ivan Bilancio and Ralph Gervasio to join us for home-made pizza and family stories. Bob, by the way, is hosting a mini-feast of lights October 22 at his Ventura ranch which will include a variety of traditional/Italian dishes (including yours, if you go), music and story-telling. Call if you will be able to attend (805) 643-5034.

Thanks to David Darling for the generous room and board assist in Big Sur, CA (Jan.) and Venice, Italy (May). Ditto to Dr. Sam's stipend in Italy. Un Grande ringraziamento a tutti i miei cugini in Italia che me hanno ospitato in casa loro il mese de maggio, specialmente a Franca e Maria Scarcella di Viterloo: camera, mangiare, telefono, bagni, piscina, trasporto, regali, compagnia, abbracci, massaggio, feste, ecc.ecc.

To my dear dear cousins Terence and Willie Bilancio in Bath, NY (closer to heaven) for their gracious welcome (and mercury vapor replacement bulb discount--thanks Terry!)

To Angelica and Francis and their two wonderful boys, Ira & Luigi, for taking me and my Parisian guest Bernard Travaillot into their hearts and home. We were one very happy community. How are the barn doors doing?

To Lew and Bernice for their continuing annual invitation to join them at their shore home, rent free! Many of you have bathed in this light.

To my wife Barbara for welcoming me home time and time again after all these wanderings in the world (How do you do it, honey?)

To my sister Lilia, just moved to Sacramento, CA with husband Bud (Francis) and kids Alicia and Anthony, who hosted my wife for 11 days in July and paid for the flight both ways (thanks again, Bud).

And to Bernard Travaillot who gave me a cottage all to myself at his home near Fontainebleau, France for 5 days in June, took me to Paris, the airport and to visit Napoleon's favorite chateau in Fontainebleau; gave me the joy of knowing his children. Bernard, please come back to the USA and Trenton, over and over again.

Last note. After 6 or 7 years of imitating Father Guido Saraducci (as Fr. Guido Sardini, of course) I finally got to spend an evening with him at his show and, after words, backstage at the Club Bene in Sayreville, Saraducci (Don Novello in real life) is a wonderfully funny guy who (for those who never caught his act on Saturday Night Live) portrays an old world Italian padre with both common sense and absurdist approaches to the problems or just plain phenomena of the world. His humor is delicious and relaxed. His politics are pro-peace 70's vintage; his age is the same as mine (52) and the good father has said that he would definitely consider coming to Trenton for a "duelling Juidos" gig at a future date. This is my kind of celebrity. Real big; real funny; but most of all, Real. You've got to love him. I think he should be invited to the next *La Vigna* Picnic. Of course, it's a long ride from Fairfax, CA, but hey, with a little advance notice, maybe he can do Letterman and *La Vigna*. Blessings!

Angelojohn (aka Sardini) Chianese



Rock'N Roll.Com Cont.

and the year and place of birth of the eldest child of Marie and Frank Bilancio.

I did explain why I needed the two dates. First, a friend in Trenton checked a variety of places and could find no one by the name of Marie Bilancio dying in Trenton or Bordentown. (I do not know where she was buried.) My friend said I needed the date of death and place because NJ Vitals gets sticky about vague information on deaths earlier than 1962 before issuing a certificate. I needed the year of birth of the eldest Bilancio child in order to know where the family was when the marriage took place. All I know is that Ralph DiPacio was living at RFD #1 Yardville, Bordentown in 1937 and working at the Monterey Hotel, Asbury Park NJ. (The dates are also important in terms of searching census records.)

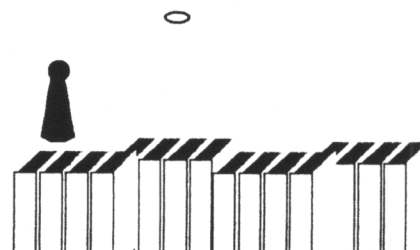
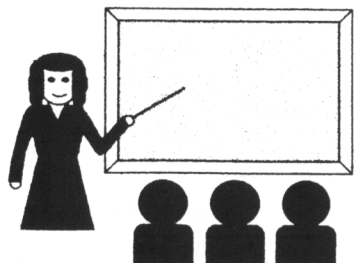
I happen to know that the name DiPacio does exist (it was my father's name). I also know that in Italian it has no meaning. However, from my research I have learned that the name Pacio does exist and it is Spanish in origin. I also know that Spain invaded Italy and it is possible that some of the soldiers stayed and remained (hence the "DiPacio" meaning from the Pacio family as opposed to from a region in Italy! I believe that Ralph and Guy are cousins, twice removed.

I must add that I really don't care why people changed their names, It would help if I could learn where Ralph found the name (I have found three people by the name of "Pacio" on the Death Index and have written for that information. Any help or advice you can give me would be appreciated. Joan Huntley, Ottawa, Canada.



Calling All Educators

La Vigna is looking for all readers who have been involved in education and a brief history of their teaching career. Send in your brief outlines to help complete our article.



La Cucina

Roman Empire Chick Pea Salad

Cutting for color, flavor & fun... By Mick Chianese

Chick Peas
2 cans colossal ripe olives
1-2 scallion stalks
5 celery stalks
1 large jar marinated artichoke hearts
3 plum tomatoes
fresh basil
5 leaves radicchio (optional)

a sharp knife*
half jar of green stuffed olives
olive oil (to taste)
juice of 1-2 lemons
apple cider vinegar
salt & pepper
fresh curly parsley

This salad is a refreshing outdoor summer salad, but can be enjoyed any time of the year. You may know its origins from my mother, Anna Rose (Manganelli) Chianese. She was always looking for ways to get me to eat my vegetables (no problem now!) She discovered that putting almost any vegetable into the salad format did the trick. My recipe contains several formulation changes/additions that enhance the visual appeal of the dish. It's simple, fast and fun to make. The quantities used here are "**picnic size.**"

Open the chick peas and drain **MOST** of the fluid out of each can before dumping into a bowl or container. Best to use a bowl that has room for you to stir the ingredients several times before serving. The vegetables will actually be marinating right up to the minute the salad is served. I use a Tupperware™ marinating container so that I can merely flip it over and shake to get everything coated.

The top of this container can later be used to keep the salad cold on a hot day (like most *LaVigna* picnics) by removing the top, filling it with ice, and placing under salad.

This salad requires little more than assembly of the ingredients after cutting them into shapes. Anyone that knows me knows that I love to cut things up. You traditionally find me volunteering to do just that before any dinner. So below are the shapes/sizes I use to keep the salad eaters' attention. When complete the salad can be easily eaten with a spoon-- I recommend providing them to your guests. Keeping a chick pea on a fork can be downright challenging

Black Olives: Kids love 'em, so here they are! Slice the olives across the pit hole. during the marinating process, some of the chick peas will end up stuck in the hole, simulating the look of the planet Saturn.

Artichoke Hearts: Cut the quarters once or twice again so they fit into the spoon. This will allow the uninitiated to enjoy the taste without compromising their integrity.

Scallions: A little goes a long way in flavor. So slice them thin. More than a sliver in a spoonful can be a lot.

Curly Parsley: Not surprising that this ingredient follows the scallions. Separate the leaves from the stems, they'll look like stars of refreshment. Dice the stems into tiny pieces.

Celery: The crunch factor adds the sound of freshness. Slice an eighth to sixteenth of an inch thick.

Plum Tomatoes: Slice longways in half, then into half-moons.

Green Stfd. Olives: Toss in whole, they're perfect as is.

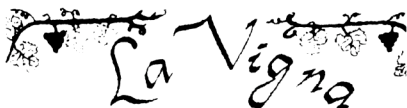
Fresh basil: Slice thinly across the leaf to release the flavor.

Radicchio: (optional) For color mostly... I cut into fan shapes

Once the cutting is done, add the salt, pepper, olive oil, lemon juice, and vinegar to taste.

LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH

**Opera International (see Chianese Notes) announces a Benefit Concert at
Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA September 30, 7:00 pm
Admission Patron-\$25, Sponsor-\$50**



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